

measuring geometry: 4 cm

gap: 800  $\mu$ m

frequency: 10 Hz, and

which is a hydrogel obtained by irradiation with ultraviolet rays of a photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative in which a photoreactive crosslinking group is chemically linked to a functional group of the hyaluronic acid and crosslinking of mutual photoreactive crosslinking groups,

*A1*  
*cancel*  
wherein said photoreactive crosslinking group is a cinnamic acid derivative containing a spacer and chemically links to a functional group of hyaluronic acid to afford said photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative; and

said mutual photoreactive crosslinking groups of said photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative are dimerized by irradiation with ultraviolet rays to form a cyclobutane ring and to thereby form said network structure.

*[* Claim 2, line 1, delete "A" and insert --The--;

*]* delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel according to claim 1--.

*A2*  
line 3, delete ",";

lines 4-9, delete in its entirety except for the ".".

Claim 3, line 1, delete "A" and insert --The--;

a3 delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel according to claim 1--;

line 5, delete ", and";

lines 6-10, delete in its entirety except for the ".".

Kindly cancel claim 4, the subject matter thereof having been inserted into claim 1.

Claim 5, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 2, delete "claim 4" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 6, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 2, delete "claim 4 or 5 and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 5" and insert --claim 1--.

Claim 8, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 13, after "derivative" insert --in an aqueous medium solution--.

a4 Claim 9, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 17 (second line from the bottom) after "derivative" insert --in an

as aqueous medium solution--.

Claim 10, line 1, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--.

Claim 11, line 2, delete "claims 1 to 10" and insert --claims 1, 8, 9 and 10--.

Claim 12, line 2, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--.

Claim 13, line 2, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--.

~~14.~~ (Amended) [The] A method for preparing a photocured crosslinked-hyaluronic acid  
[gel according to claim 13,] hydrogel comprising:

irradiating with ultraviolet rays an aqueous medium solution containing from 0.5 to 10%  
by weight photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative in which a photoreactive crosslinking group  
is chemically linked to a functional group of the hyaluronic acid; and

forming an intermolecular and/or intramolecular crosslinking by dimerization of the  
mutual photoreactive crosslinking groups to provide a network structure.

wherein [said] a heat treatment is conducted at from 100 to 125°C for from 5 to 30  
minutes with high pressure steam before and/or after irradiation with ultraviolet rays of said  
aqueous medium solution of the photoreactive hyaluronic acid derivative.

Claim 15, line 2 delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--.

line 3, delete "1 to 11" and insert --1, 8, 9 and 10--.

Claim 19, line 2, delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--;

line 3, delete "1-11" and insert --1, 8, 9, and 10--; delete "gel" and  
insert --hydrogel--.

Claim 20, line 3 delete "gel" and insert --hydrogel--

Add the following claims 21 and 22:

<sup>18</sup>  
21. The photocured crosslinking-hyaluronic acid hydrogel according to any one of  
claims 1, <sup>7, 8</sup>~~8, 9~~ and <sup>9</sup>~~10~~, which is capable of being pushed out from a container.

<sup>19</sup>  
22. The method for preparing a photocured crosslinked-hyaluronic acid hydrogel  
according to claim <sup>7, 8</sup>~~8~~ or <sup>9</sup>~~9~~, wherein said heat treatment is conducted at from 100 to 125°C for  
from 5 to 30 minutes with high pressure stream.

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of Applicants' amendments and  
remarks herein.

In paragraphs 1-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner documents the restriction  
requirement and earlier telephonic election of the Group I, claims 1-16 and 19-20. Applicants  
confirm this election. The election was made without traverse.